

REMARKS

The amendments made herein were previously made via Article 34 Amendments during the PCT stage of this 35 U.S.C. § 371 filed application. This Preliminary Amendment is submitted with the belief that the Article 34 Amendments have not already been made for this application.

The amendment to the paragraph on pages 2-3 is to make clear that the reference to Xia et al. is an indication that the gene was isolated by using a method as taught by Xia et al. and to make clear that the Xia et al. reference does not itself teach the isolation of the NAC1 gene.

The changes to the claims were to make the claims more specific as to what is being claimed. It is urged that the amendments insert no new matter.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED,					
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Attachments: Marked-Up Copy of Amendments

Substitute Paragraph, beginning at the bottom of Page 1 and ending on Page 2: Version with markings to show changes made

A new Arabidopsis NAC family member, NAC1, is described. This gene was originally isolated by the ability of its cDNAs to alter yeast *S. pombe* cell morphology when overexpressed by using the method of Xia et al. (1996) [(Xia et al., 1996)]. Northern analysis showed that NAC1 was expressed in a tissue-specific manner with high levels in root and low levels in leaves. Whole-mount *in situ* experiments showed expression in actively dividing root and shoot meristems.

Amended Claims 1, 3, 5 and 6: Version with markings to show changes made

1. (Amended) [A] An isolated nucleic acid comprising bases 89-1060 of SEQ ID NO:1.
3. (Amended) An isolated protein at least 70% homologous to said protein of claim 2, wherein said isolated protein is a functional homologue of NAC1.
5. (Amended) A transgenic plant which is transgenic for a nucleic acid comprising the nucleic acid of claim 4.
6. (Amended) A transgenic plant cell which is transgenic for a nucleic acid comprising the nucleic acid of claim 4.